

## Case 2803

***Copromyza limosa* Fallén, 1820 (currently *Leptocera* (*Rachispoda*) *limosa*; Insecta, Diptera): proposed replacement of lectotype, so conserving usage of the specific name and also that of *Leptocera* (*Rachispoda*) *lutosa* (Stenhammar, 1855)**

Ke Chung Kim

*The Frost Entomological Museum, Department of Entomology, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania 16802, U.S.A.*

Jindřich Roháček

*Slezské Zemské Muzeum Opava, 746 46 Opava, Czechoslovakia*

**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of the common Holarctic saprophagous sphaerocerid fly *Leptocera limosa* (Fallén, 1820) in its current usage. In 1972 one of the female syntypes was designated as the lectotype, but this has now been identified as *Leptocera lutosa* (Stenhammar, 1855). It is proposed that a male syntype should be designated as replacement lectotype.

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1. Fallén (1820, p. 8) established the name *Copromyza limosa* based on an unstated number of specimens. Four probable syntypes (three females and one male) are in the Diptera Collection of the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseum, Stockholm. Another male specimen with a handwritten label and a small red square in the collection in Lund University may also be a syntype of this species (see Kim, 1972, p. 205). In 1967 Kim found and examined these specimens at the two institutions and (1972, p. 205) designated as lectotype of *Copromyza limosa* a female in Fallén's collection at Stockholm bearing his handwritten label '*C. limosa* ♀'. Kim also designated as paralectotypes one male (without Fallén's label) and one female. The third female syntype, with Fallén's handwritten label '*C. limosa* ♂', was identified as *Leptocera lutosa* (Stenhammar, 1855).

2. *Limosina lutosa* was first described by Stenhammar (1855, p. 380). The male lectotype and four male and one female paralectotypes, designated by Kim (1972, p. 206), are in the Stenhammar collection at Uppsala University.

3. Prior to Duda's work (1918, pp. 51, 59) both names *limosa* and *lutosa* had been used in a confusing manner. The distinction between these two taxonomic species was not generally recognised until more recent work (e.g. Richards, 1930; Duda, 1938), particularly that of Sabrosky (1949) which included genitalia studies. Duda's (1918) redescription of *limosa* has been accepted by subsequent workers. *Leptocera limosa* and *L. lutosa* are common Holarctic saprophagous flies which have been dealt with in numerous taxonomic papers and recorded in almost all synecological studies, particularly those dealing with marshy and shore ecosystems. A representative list of 27 publications is held by the Commission Secretariat.

4. In 1989 Roháček, in his monographic research on the western Palearctic species of *Rachispoda*, discovered a problem with the lectotype designation of *limosa* (see Roháček, 1991). Of the four syntypes at Stockholm, only the male designated by Kim (see para. 1 above) as a paralectotype belongs to the taxon currently interpreted as *limosa*; the other three females, including the lectotype, belong to the taxon known as *lutosa*. If Kim's lectotype designation is maintained the nominal taxon *Leptocera* (*Rachispoda*) *lutosa* would be a junior synonym of *L. (R.) limosa* and a new name would be needed for the taxon currently known as *limosa*. This would cause endless confusion in the taxonomy of the *Leptocera limosa/lutosa* complex and slow the progress of work in the taxonomy and biology of the SPHAEROCERIDAE. It is important that the current use of the nominal taxa *limosa* and *lutosa* should remain unchanged.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside the lectotype designation made by Kim (1972) for *Copromyza limosa* Fallén, 1820, and to designate in its place as lectotype the male syntype in Stockholm;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *limosa* Fallén, 1820, as published in the binomen *Copromyza limosa* and as defined by the lectotype designated in (1) above;
  - (b) *lutosa* Stenhammar, 1855, as published in the binomen *Limosina lutosa* and as defined by the lectotype designated by Kim (1972).

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